

Serial No. 09/831,676
Reply to Office Action of December 24, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the storage of disk-shaped data storage media (12), ~~in particular of the CD or DVD type, having the apparatus comprising:~~ a flat housing (10) that has a slot opening (16) via which a reception space for the data storage medium (12) is accessible, and a coupling member (14) that ~~can be inserted~~ is insertable into the flat housing (10) via the slot opening (16) to hold the data storage medium (12) within the reception space and that is releasably latchable ~~connected, in particular latched~~ connected to the flat housing (1) in the inserted state, with an outer portion (24) of the coupling member (14) which is arranged outside the flat housing (10) when the coupling member (14) is inserted ~~being formed for the connection to a~~ the outer portion (24) having at least one coupling element (30) via which the coupling member (14) can be connected to the carrier (42).

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the coupling member (14) ~~can be~~ is releasably connected to the carrier (42).

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the coupling member (14) comprises an insertable portion (22) provided with an approximately part circular-like cut-out (26) which, in the inserted state fills, at least in part, the space between the slot opening (16) and the circular reception space for the data storage medium (12) in the flat housing (10) ~~at least in part, preferably substantially in full.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the flat housing (10) includes opposite narrow sides (28), at least one of the narrow sides

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(28) of the flat housing (10) ~~adjacent to the slot opening (16)~~ is provided with ~~projection-like latching means~~ a connecting element (36) for latchingly engaging the coupling member (14).

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the housing (10) includes two halves and a plurality of connecting elements (36), at least one connecting element ~~which interconnects~~ connects the two halves of the flat housing (10) to one another ~~is formed as latching means (36)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that ~~at least one latching means of the coupling member (14) comprises at least one a material web (32) which is elastically deformable, in particular by latching means~~ by engagement with the connecting element (36) of the flat housing (10) and which bounds during insertion of coupling member (14) into the housing (10), the material web (32) defining at least one cut-out (33) which is in particular in the shape of an elongate elongated slot.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the material web (32) comprises at least on engaging section (34) which, in the inserted state, latchingly engages behind ~~latching means~~ the connecting elements (36) formed at a narrow side (23) of the flat housing (10).

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the slot opening (16) of the flat housing (10) is at least substantially ~~completely~~ closed when the coupling member (14) is inserted.

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9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the coupling member (14) has at least one abutment edge which can be brought into abutment with at least one edge region bounding the slot opening (16) or with at least one abutment region formed in the flat housing (10) on insertion into the flat housing (10).

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the coupling member (14), in particular a coupling element (30) of the coupling member (14), is formed for the releasable connection to storage apparatuses for data storage media of the DVD type, in particular with fixing elements (50) arranged at narrow sides (44) of DVD boxes (42).

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the outer portion of the coupling member (14) is connected in one piece to ~~[[a]]~~ the carrier (42).

13. (Withdrawn) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the coupling member (14) is a component of a folding packaging, in particular one consisting of cardboard or card.

14. (Withdrawn) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the coupling member (14) – in the state connected to a carrier (42) – is pivotable with respect to the

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carrier (42) and is in particular biased relative to the carrier (42) in to an inserting and removing position which allows a simple coupling to the flat housing (10).

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the coupling member (14) consists of a reusable material, ~~in particular of plastic, preferably polypropylene, or of cardboard or card.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A coupling member (14) for holding disk-shaped data storage media (12), ~~in particular of the CD or DVD type~~ for which a reception space is provided in a flat housing (10), which reception space is accessible via a slot opening (16) of the flat housing (10), ~~with the coupling member (14) being insertable into the flat housing (10) via the slot opening (16) and being releasably connected, in particular latched, to the flat housing (10) in the inserted state~~ for substantially enclosing the data storage media (12) within the reception space, and with an the coupling member (14) having an outer portion (24) ~~of the coupling member (14) arranged outside of the flat housing (10) when the coupling member (14) is inserted into the flat housing (10), being formed adapted for connection to the outer portion (24) having at least one coupling element (30) via which the coupling member (14) can be releasably connected to a carrier (42).~~

17. (Canceled)